

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Fantle in view of Langan, as set forth in paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action. In view of the claims as presently amended, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 of applicant's claimed invention has been amended, and recites that one or more winners of the bingo game are classified by the number of the covered lines on the bingo game sheet, and such number of winners is determined by a lottery if the number of the bingo game sheets qualified for a prize award is more than an expected number of winners. This feature of a lottery to further select winners is not taught or disclosed in Fantle or Langan either individually or in combination.

The subject matter of the "lottery" is disclosed in the specification as filed. Specifically, claim 10 of the originally filed application recites this feature. Because the claims are part of the specification as originally filed, and claim 10 recites this feature, this feature must be considered to be disclosed in the specification. Accordingly, the above-mentioned amendment to independent claim 1 to recite the lottery feature is supported in the specification as filed.

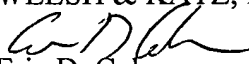
Further, in applicant's claimed invention, the pitcher zone 23 designates a special event feature. The pitcher zone 23 can be played in every inning, causing the players of applicant's bingo game to continue to watch the base ball game so as not to miss any plays or events. In that regard, the pitcher zone 23 is located at the center of the matrix and therefore, the pitcher zone 23 increases the

possibility of having "bingo." Applicant's pitcher zone 23 is distinguishable from the "free zone" located at the center of the game in accordance with Frantle because Frantle's "free zone" is always punched out generally from the beginning of the game.

Closing Remarks

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Respectfully submitted,
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